

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Study**

According to Esten (1978: 9), literature is the disclosure of artistic and imaginative facts as manifestations of human life. In this point, literature plays an important role for the disclosure process of facts that exist in people's life. It is undeniable that literature is a meaning for one to know how to understand problems in life through a literary work. In literature, there are many interesting things to learn and understand. It is in the future aims to the thought process of a person looking for ways to solve problems from the easiest to the most difficult. Literary works are such as movie, music, and novel.

The novel has a characteristic depending on character, presenting more than one impression, presenting more than one effect, presenting more than one emotion (Tarigan, 1991: 164-165). This means that in the novel showing the nature of the binding one another and should not be missing a single part in it, because it can be one of the novel's ways to imagine and to describe in story of the novel. Then, the novel also has a function that is to present a story which contains more than one impression, effect, and emotion. In the novel contains many interesting storylines to be known. Even we can apply through many types of literary approach such as a feminist approach in the feminist analysis.

According to Collins (1991: 8) states that feminism is about equal rights between men and women in economy, politics, and social or organized activities that fight for the rights and interests of women. That is how feminism provides for similarities between men and women in the economy, social, and politics sectors through a feminist approach. This is obtained because of the women's desire to get their rights and interests through a struggle that is not easy. It is also caused by many obstacles and detentions in that regard. So they will also be under pressure from other men.

Even in many sectors are often encountered some women who experience actions that do not deserve to be accepted by them in many sectors. Women have always been being the object or victim of the crime. Even, they are object to discrimination and pressure aimed at undermining positions, rights, roles and participations in many moments. As a result they lose what they actually get. But, there are also some women who have an attitude of determination to get their rights, roles, participations and positions. They do that, because to fight for and protect themselves, their families and all that is around them. Thus they will get a better quality of life and avoiding the pressure even threat from other men.

Alberti and Emmons (Marini and Andriani, 2005: 47) state that assertiveness is a behavior that enables one to act according to desire, to defend oneself without feeling anxious, to express feelings honestly and comfortably, or to exercise private rights without violating the rights other people. It shows that assertiveness is an attitude of gratitude from those who want to convey their actions and thoughts to get what they want. It is also a way to fight for something to be achieved from a decision, because of the pressure or deviant action of others. As a result created that a strong principle to dare to act and think. So they avoid the bad things which they do not want.

Assertiveness is not just an attitude of constancy or persistence shown to others to get a goal, but assertiveness is the way for how they acts and thinks with the courage to fight against others who put their pressures and threats. Assertiveness was also served as the subject matter described by an author through a literary work that reflected in *Room* novel. The novel was released on 6 October, 2010. The novel had won the 2011 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the 2010 Governor General's Awards, Commonwealth Writers' Regional Prize (Caribbean and Canada) and Long-listed for the 2011 Orange Prize. This novel was created by Iris Canadian author called Emma Donoghue. She was born on 24 October 1969 in Dublin, Ireland. She had been working as a drama writer, playwright, literary historian and novelist. She was the daughter of a literary critic of Denis Donoghue. She had been holding a Bachelor of Art in

University College of Dublin and Ph.D. in Cambridge. While in Cambridge, she found a life partner named Christiane Roulston who was a Professor in the University of Western Ontario. In 2004, they moved to Canada and Donoghue became a Canadian.

She started making her first work with a book titled *Stir Fry* (1994) about an Irish young lady who discovered her sexuality. *Hood* (1995) told the story of the death of an Irish woman. *Slammaerkin* (2000) told about history in London and Wales. *The Sealed Letter* (2008) told of a scandal in Britain in 1864. Then, the amazing literary work by Emma Donoghue was *Room* (2010). That was the phenomenal work of Emma Donoghue. It was her work which had been converted into several languages in the world. So it became a means to facilitate the reader in understanding the contents of her novel.

*Room* novel is a literary work that tells about how the assertiveness process occurs in a woman because of being a victim of captivity in a kidnapping act. This story took the place in an isolated room around at the corner of a house. This happened to a woman named Ma who was kidnapped and locked up for years. Because that, Ma felt losing her position, right, role, and participation. Then Ma wanted to change her condition by doing something. So she did an action of assertiveness to act and fight against the abduction of a kidnapper called Old Nick. This was the starting point for assertiveness. The conflict in this novel began when Ma became a victim of the kidnapping act by Old Nick. She was placed in a small room. It could not be opened, except with a secret password that was only known by Old Nick. For several years, Ma was in that room. There, Ma was abused and treated unfairly by Old Nick. One day, Ma wanted to escape but she could not succeed it. Even Ma was getting unkind acts, physical violence, and racist treatment from Old Nick. Meanwhile, Ma also got discrimination, intimidation, and pressure every day. Moreover she was just a woman, it was considered low and trivial by Old Nick. Not long after the incident, there was born a child named Jack who gave her happiness. Jack became friends and entertainers for Ma during in the room.

In the early days in the room, Ma just resigned and accepted all of his treatment. So the position, role, right, and participation of Ma always got the oppression and pressure from Old Nick. From that, Ma began to think about the treatment she received so far. Then, she started trying to act decisively against whatever treatment from Old Nick. Her assertiveness was seen when she asked for vitamins to Old Nick who did not carry the item at that time. Her assertive stance was also visible when she forbade Old Nick to open a cabinet in which Jack lived, because she did not like the Old Nick's act. Regardless of Ma's assertiveness towards Old Nick, she also showed it to her son named Jack and the people around her. This was done when Ma explained the truth between the fantasy world and the real world. At an emergency she asked Jack to do the escape process by getting into the carpet roll, so they would have been free. When she and Jack manage to get free, some attitudes of pressure from other men to her too she got. It made Ma show her assertiveness to disagree when someone was offering to take care of Jack. Finally, Ma had decided to choose the principles in her-self and to say that she always wanted to live with Jack in better life.

There are reasons of why the researcher chooses this novel. The first reason is the novel has a unique story and interesting plot to read and understand. The author tells how difficult the situation that the main characters must pass. The setting is different from story of other novels. Because this novel has two places, those are in indoor and outdoor. This story makes the readers' curiosity higher and the readers hard to stop reading it because it is very unique and full of surprises.

The second reason is the novel raising some issues. One of its issues offends about assertiveness. Therefore, the researcher wants to know more about assertiveness. Because in it can make someone especially the woman more adventurous in achieving her purposes and dreams so the woman is easier to get hers. It was happened when Ma strove to get her equal right, position, participation and position using her assertiveness.

The last reason is the subject matter. *Room* novel is an interesting novel. The image on the characters of the story makes this novel more alive and has more real souls. It can give the researcher and the readers more inspirations, awareness, experiences, and new knowledge in problem solving process.

Based on the illustration above, the researcher is interested to analyze the novel by using a feminist literature entitled **Assertiveness of Ma Reflected in Emma Donoghue's *Room* Novel (2010): A Feminist Approach**.

## **B. Problem Statement**

Considering the background above, the main problem in this research is how Assertiveness of Ma Reflected in Emma Donoghue's *Room* Novel. Based on the problem statement, the researcher formulates the research questions are below:

1. How are the structural elements described in *Room* novel?
2. How is assertiveness of Ma based on feminist approach reflected in *Room* novel?

## **C. Objective of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to make the readers know and understand well about the content of the novel. Besides, the researcher wants to provide the answer from the problems of the study. The objectives of this study are:

1. To describe how the structural elements based on *Room* novel
2. To analyze how assertiveness of Ma based on the feminist approach reflected in *Room* novel.

## **D. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing Assertiveness of Ma Reflected in Emma Donoghue's *Room* Novel (2010) on Feminist Approach.

### **E. Benefits of the Study**

The result of this research is generally expected to be able to give available contribution theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically, the result can be used as a reference on the research of literature of itself in educational institutions.
2. Practically, it is expected that the result of this research will be useful for the readers to understand and know deeply about the assertiveness of Ma reflected in Emma Donoghue's *Room* novel based on feminist approach. Besides, the result of this research increases the writing collection about the assertiveness in library.

### **F. Paper Organization**

The research paper of "Assertiveness of Ma Reflected in Emma Donoghue's *Room* Novel (2010): A Feminist Approach" is divided in three chapters. The details of paper organization are: Chapter one is introduction. It consists of Background of the Study, Problem Statement, Objective of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Benefits of the Study, and Paper Organization. Chapter two is Literature Review. It consists of Underlying Theory (Feminist Literary Criticism, Major Principle of Feminism, The Notion of Assertiveness, and The Structural Elements of Novel) and Previous Study. Chapter three is Research Method. It consists of Type of the Study, Object of the Study, Type of the Data and the Data Source, Technique of the Data Collection, and Technique of the Data Analysis.